

STATINTL



23 March 1973

Thank you for your letter of 19 March and also your patience with my questions. They were only to attempt to gain a better and more accurate history of this weapon and its use during WW2 by those organizations concerned.

Information is continuing to come in from many parts of the world in response to my questionnaires to the various officials in foreign lands. A pattern is beginning to form which indicates how these weapons were distributed and by whom. The information is extremely interesting.

Your friend can write to the address inclosed for his pistol. The model shown is not exactly what they are advertising. The pistol in the advertisement is a model 2. The one depicted in the OSS Weapons Manual is a model 3 and the type used in WW2. These weapons were brought into the Canadian area by International Firearms Ltd of Montreal. They also have an office in Florida. These weapons were obtained from the Philippines and not China as previously stated. After the weapons reached Canada the RCMP required they be serialized prior to selling and the Canadian guns have a 6 digit number on the handgrip. Some of these same weapons were sent to a weapons shop in Zurich, Switzerland where they are selling for \$110.00 each. Other speculators in Canada are reselling them for \$75 each.

Several other points I should mention. The film strip concerning this weapon is available from the National Archives for about \$10.50. It is 35 mm and is a photo reproduction of the Army's report about the pistol. It, however, is lacking in many points on accurate information but will give a basic background into the weapon. And secondly, the pistol has been taken off of the ATF list of firearms and it is no longer considered a firearm and can be sent through the mails. Mr. Rex Davis, head of the ATF branch in Washington has verified this. Documentation can be obtained from any ATF office.

Another interesting point has come up recently. You had informed me that General MacArthur's staff had requested access to OSS's special weapons in July 1944. A source in the Philippines and very reliable, has indicated that a considerable quantity of these weapons were landed by U.S. Submarines at Leyte Bay on the island of Luzon.

....during the first part of September 1943 and were distributed to the Philippine resistance by members of the Allied Intelligence Bureau ( MacArthur's baby, under General Willoughby, the SWPA G-2 ). The sub came from Australia, and as far as I can determine, was the USS Bowfin. The pistols were known as the "Australian .45" or the "Kangaroo" pistol as their origin at that time was still kept a secret.

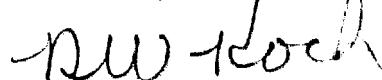
Document 25156 accounts for 100,020 pistols between Jorhat, India and Kunming, China. The ones in Kunming were flown over the "Hump" by C-46 aircraft. This document is for your files should you choose to retain it.

The inclosed patent by A.P. BURQUOR is an interesting modification to the Liberator pistol. At least it was a handful of trouble. I should mention that the film strip concerning the pistol is numbered

Reel No. G 72.1169 Reference that if you decide to order it from the National Archives.

Once again your cooperation is appreciated. If I can be of further assistance on matters concerning this pistol please feel free to write. You may retain all of the inclosures.

Sincerely,



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R W KOCH

